

REMARKS

Claims 20-37 are pending in the application. Claims 32-37 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yumoto et al. (USP 6,734,910) in view of Taniguchi et al. (USP 6,549,232). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, all traversal arguments made in previous Replies to previous Office Actions are maintained.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the present invention as claimed was conceived and/or reduced to practice prior to August 26, 1999, which is the U.S. filing date of Yumoto. A declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 is attached herewith to perfect the claim of prior invention. As such, Yumoto no longer qualifies as prior art. Accordingly, any rejection based on a combination of references that includes Yumoto cannot be maintained.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 20-31 based on Yumoto and Taniguchi be withdrawn.

Claims Withdrawn from Consideration

Claims 32-37, variously dependent on claim 20, have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to the non-elected species. Upon allowance of claim 20, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claims 32-37.

CONCLUSION

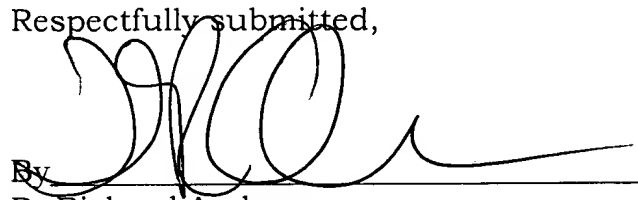
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (#44,346) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Executed Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131